

CHAPTER TWO

GEORGE Stop it, Jennie!

JENNIE Why? What's wrong? Would you rather make out a list? What's safe to talk about and what's hands-off?

GEORGE *(A deep breath)* Jesus, I don't have the strength for this kind of thing anymore.

JENNIE You were doing fine two minutes ago.

GEORGE *(Looks at his hands)* Sweating like crazy . . . I'm sorry, Jennie, I don't think I'm up to this tonight.

JENNIE Why, George? Why is it so painful? What are you feeling now? Do you think that I'm expecting you to behave a certain way?

GEORGE No. I expect it, I expect a full commitment from myself . . . I did it twelve years ago . . . But I can't do it now.

JENNIE I'm in no hurry. What you're giving now is enough for me. I know the rest will come.

GEORGE How do you know? How the hell did you become so wise and smart? Stop being so goddamn understanding, will you? It bores the crap out of me.

JENNIE Then what *do* you want? Bitterness? Anger? Fury? You want me to stand toe to toe with you like Barbara did? Well, I'm not Barbara. And I'll be damned if I'm going to re-create *her* life, just to make *my* life work with you. This is *our* life now, George, and the sooner we start accepting that, the sooner we can get on with this marriage.

ACT TWO

GEORGE ~~No~~, you're not Barbara. That's clear enough.

JENNIE *(Devastated)* Oh, Jesus, George. If you want to hurt me, you don't have to work that hard.

GEORGE Sorry, but you give me so much room to be cruel, I don't know when to stop.

JENNIE I never realized that was a *fault* until now.

GEORGE I guess it's one of the minor little adjustments you have to make. But I have no worry—you'll make them.

JENNIE And you resent me for that?

GEORGE I resent you for *everything*!

JENNIE *(Perplexed)* Why, George? Why?

GEORGE Because I don't feel like making you happy tonight! I don't feel like having a wonderful time. I don't think I *wanted* a "terrifically wonderful" honeymoon! You want happiness, Jennie, find yourself another football player, will ya? I resent everything you want out of marriage that I've already had. And for making me reach so deep inside to give it to you again. I resent being at L or M and having to go back to A! And most of all, I resent not being able to say in front of you . . . that I miss Barbara so much.

*(He covers his eyes, crying silently. JENNIE has been cut so deeply, she can hardly react. She just sits there, fighting back her tears)* Oh, Christ, Jennie, I'm sorry . . . I think I need a little outside assistance.